

MISSOURI

Migrant Education and English Language Learning

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of the No Child Left
Behind Act of 2001
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as the **Missouri Migrant
Education and English
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(MELL)** program. The
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existing
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In Missouri, the Title I-C and Title III programs of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 have been reorganized as the Missouri Migrant Education and English Language Learning (MELL) program. The reorganization is an ongoing process.

BACKGROUND The MELL program is designed to use existing resources to better serve English Language Learners (ELL) and migrant students, to prevent duplication of services and to allow most Title I-C and Title III funds to reach districts with needy children. MELL staff provides service delivery at nine strategic locations throughout the state. Each center is staffed with at least one instructional specialist, and regions with a high incidence of migrants are also staffed with a migrant recruiter.

The MELL director coordinates the nine regional centers from an office in Jefferson City. This central MELL office processes the migrant data. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) funds the MELL centers and the MELL director's office through contracts with school districts or institutions of higher education. DESE also allocates Title I-C and Title III funding to school districts for direct services to the targeted students.

GOALS The main purpose of the MELL program is to provide quality services and build capacity in the school districts as outlined in Title I-C and Title III of the NCLB Act. Specific goals include:

- assisting with decisions on how Title I-C and Title III funds are to be appropriately expended.
- providing development opportunities to build capacity in delivering sound, research-based services to ELL and migrant students and their families.
- providing information to school districts to help them comply with federal and state guidelines for ELL and migrant education.
- providing information and assistance with ELL/migrant identification, recruitment and enrollment.
- providing development opportunities to build capacity in educational programs and strategies that will empower parental involvement in the education of ELL and migrant students.
- providing assistance to enhance English language proficiency, academic performance and achievement of the same student population.

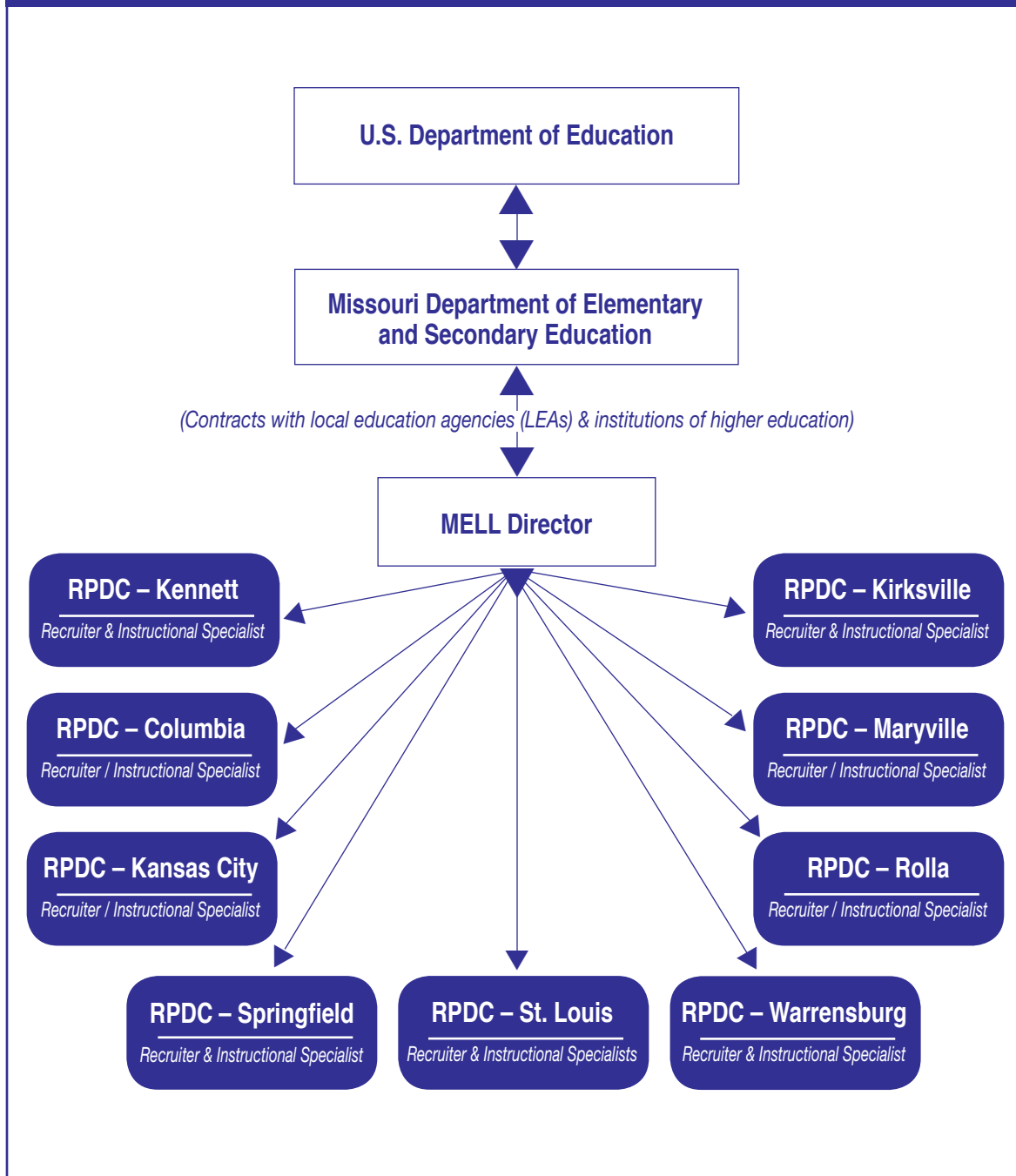
SERVICE DELIVERY Although MELL staff may model good service-delivery practices in districts that are new to providing services to ELL and migrant students, the MELL program does not include direct services to students. School districts provide services directly to migrant and ELL students and their families. Districts are responsible for the implementation of policies and instruction, including program design.

DESE conceptualizes the policies within federal requirements, and the MELL program bridges the delivery of policies to districts with technical support for compliance and

instruction. The Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) is the state body that ensures all districts are in compliance and all students, including migrant and ELL students, are receiving services appropriate to their needs as required by state and federal law.

SERVICE MONITORING The MELL director ensures that MELL staff is extending services to all school districts within the corresponding regions. DESE staff works collaboratively with the MELL office to discuss issues and to find solutions for any challenges. DESE is responsible for evaluating the MELL program and making appropriate changes.

THE MIGRANT EDUCATION AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING PROCESS



SERVICE EVALUATION

The program design has enough flexibility to allow the MELL central office and DESE to conduct internal and external performance evaluations using strategies that include regional reports and checklists. Districts' reports to DESE are analyzed, and these reports provide a method for pinpointing issues and ways to improve the MELL program. The MELL staff and DESE are responsible for conducting regular meetings to adjust the program. The MELL program evaluation is ongoing.



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